

Message Text

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17

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-11 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-03 SS-20 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01 SWF-02

FEA-02 DRC-01 /172 W

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R 280842Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7514

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FOR AGRICULTURE ERS PASS WEST/SCHERTZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, IR

SUBJ: AGRICULTURE IMPROVEMENT TEAM

REF: FASTO 96

1. AMBASSADOR, ECONCOUNS AND AGATT MET WITH MINISTER RUHANI, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES, JULY 24. MEETING VERY CORDIAL AND FRANK.

2. AMBASSADOR HELMS OUTLINED USDA TEAM'S CONCERNS THAT THEIR PERFORMANCE NOT AS EFFECTIVE AS THEY FELT IT COULD BE BECAUSE OF BEING RELEGATED TO DIRECTOR GENERAL LEVEL. THIS RESTRICTS THEIR ACTIVITY TO ONLY FIVE DIRECTORS GENERAL. ON OTHER HAND IF TEAM ATTACHED TO DEPUTY MINISTERS THEY WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO ALL DIRECTORATES GENERAL, HENCE GREATLY BORADENING THE SCOPE OF THEIR WORK AND EFFECTIVENESS.

3. AMBASSADOR ALSO EXTENDED USDA INVITATION TO MINISTER RUHANI AND
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MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF AS FOLLOWS: "NOW THAT THE MINISTRY OF AGRI-

CULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES INTENDS TO CONTINUE OUR LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING FOR ANOTHER YEAR, WE WILL WELCOME AN IRANIAN MISSION TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF A TRAINING PROGRAM AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO ITS OPERATION."

4. MINISTER RUHANI INDICATED THAT HE HAD NOT AS YET RED SECRETARY BUTZ' LETTER BUT ADMITTED IT COULD BE IN HIS IN-BOX. (THE MINISTER HAD BEEN OUT OF TEHRAN THE PAST THREE DAYS.) HE EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE OVER THE ACTIONS AND WORK OF USDA TEAM. HE ESPECIALLY POINTED OUT GREAT ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM TEAM DURING THE FROZEN MEAT CRISIS. (NOTE: THIS CONCERNS ADVERSE REACTION BY CONSUMERS TO LOW GRADE FROZEN BEEF AND MUTTON PURCHASED BY MEAT ORGANIZATION.)

5. MINISTER RUHANI OBSERVED THAT BECAUSE OF PRESS OF BUSINESS HE HAD NOT MET OFTEN ENOUGH WITH MEMBERS OF THE TEAM. IT WAS HIS INTENTION, HE SAID, TO USE THEM MORE OFTEN IN THE FUTURE. SPECIFICALLY, HE WOULD TAKE STEPS TO SEE THAT HIS DEPUTY MINISTER FOR POLICY AND PLANNING (DR TAMADON) WORKED MORE CLOSELY WITH THEM. MIKLOS

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